

EXHIBIT

DATE 1/24/2013

HB HB 170

January 24, 2013

Members of the House Fish and Game Committee:

My name is Wagner Harmon and I am writing to show my support with HB 170. I farm and ranch in the oil boom shadows of Bainville Montana, and I have had many discussions with nonresident folks that are here usually on a temporary basis working in the oil business. Many of them see the opportunities to hunt on block management, public lands or private ranches for birds and ask if they can get a bird license over the counter. I usually direct them to the local sporting goods store or tell them they can get it on line also. A common statement is they only have time to hunt a couple of days but would like to get away from the rat race and enjoy the outdoors with some of their friends or even their dogs. I have had several ask about the costs of the license and after being told the fee, most have elected to not hunt as they feel the amount of time they would be hunting would not justify the money out of their pocket.

I think that it was a great move by our legislatures to create a 3 day fishing license and I have seen that used a lot in this area. I feel that to have a three day bird license would create a nice shot of revenue into our local communities businesses and would also help dramatically for those folks that are up here working in the oil boom area. I feel it would also help the block management program in north eastern Montana which has been a very good program up here in regards to bird hunting. As I see the oil interest continue in Montana to move west, you will see the same demand in other parts of the state for a 3 day license. Please vote yes for HB 170 and help our state capture this easy revenue in our communities.

Thank you,
Wagner Harmon